

Two more for EOU

Observer staff

WALLA WALLA — Whitney Meier hit five 3-pointers and finished with 15 points to lead 12 players in scoring Saturday as the Eastern Oregon University women’s basketball team breezed past Walla Walla in a road contest in Cascade Collegiate Conference play, 96-55.

Meier was one of three players in double figures for the Mountaineers, with Megan Still scoring 14 points and Tywanna Abbott adding 12 points.

The Mountaineers never trailed Saturday, and never led by fewer than 10 points after Meier’s first 3-pointer of the game gave Eastern a 21-9 lead late in the first quarter. EOU went on to lead by as many as 43 points in yet another blowout win over the Wolves.

EOU, which shot 55% for the game, hit 13 treys and owned a 52-21 rebounding advantage, with Jill Albright grabbing 10 boards to lead the way.

Sunday’s contest against Walla Walla was a much tighter battle, but EOU came away with a 67-58 win behind 21 points from Taylor Stricklin.

Stricklin drained five 3-pointers and added 10 rebounds for Eastern, which hit 12 more 3-pointers in the win.

Along with Stricklin’s effort, Jane Nelson finished with 12 points and Still added 10 points, and the three each shot 50% from the 3-point line (Stricklin 5-for-10, Nelson 4-for-8, Still 2-for-4).

Eastern, which won its 10th in a row, trailed only once early in the game, and led by as much as 17 points in the second half. With the win, EOU moved into a tie for first place in the CCC with four games to play after Northwest Christian lost Saturday.

EOU (19-7 overall, 13-3 CCC), which is one win away from its ninth straight 20-win season, hosts Northwest Friday.

Men’s wrestling takes down SOU

Observer staff

ASHLAND — The Eastern Oregon University men’s wrestling team took down Southern Oregon for the second time this season on Saturday, shaking off an early deficit for a 29-12 dual victory over the Raiders.

SOU grabbed an early 9-0 lead, and was still up 12-4 through the 149-pound match despite EOU’s Blake McNall grabbing a 15-7 major decision over Matt Peterson at 141. Layn Pannkuk’s win at 149 gave SOU the eight-point lead.

The rest of the night belonged to the Mountaineers.

Jesse Camacho (157) earned a 9-4 decision over Nick Peterson, and John

Bittinger (165) followed with a 13-5 major decision over Noah Talavera that pulled EOU within 12-11. Keegan Mulhill’s win by a 16-0 technical fall over Tanner Sallee at 174 put the Mountaineers ahead, and Marco Retano (184) made it a 22-12 lead for Eastern with a win by fall over Joshua Hammers. Ryan Redford (197) sealed the win for EOU with a 7-4 decision over Cylus Hoke, and Noel Orozco (285) added an exclamation point with a 10-1 major decision over Ismael DeLa Torre to end the night.

EOU is off until Feb. 21-22 when it travels to Atherton, California, for the Cascade Collegiate Conference championships.

Softball falls twice in doubleheaders

Observer staff

MONMOUTH — The Eastern Oregon University softball team dropped its season-opening doubleheader Saturday on the road, losing to Western Oregon 9-0 and 5-1.

The Mountaineers managed just one hit in the opener, a fourth-inning single by Amanda Smith. The Wolves, meanwhile, scored four times in the first inning without registering a hit — taking advantage of six walks and a hit batter by EOU starter Ashton Kazmierski. WOU later added home runs from Tyler Creach and Sydney Bowers in the third and fourth innings, respectively.

Kazmierski gave up eight runs on five hits in three innings and walked seven.

In the second game Saturday, Eastern generated some offense to score its first run of 2020, but was unable to rally from an early deficit.

EOU fell behind 3-0 after three innings, but got on the board in the fifth on a pinch-hit RBI single by Alaina Carson — the first hit and RBI of her EOU career — scored Jordan Henley to make it 3-1. WOU, though, added two runs in the sixth for the final margin.

Smith took the loss in the pitcher’s circle, allowing three runs on seven hits in three innings while walking one and striking out two.

Eastern dropped a second road doubleheader Sunday, falling to Pacific 8-2 and 5-4 in Forest Grove.

EOU took a 2-1 fourth-

inning lead in the opener when Carson scored on an error and Smith touched home later on a passed ball.

The lead was short lived. The Boxers tied the score in the bottom of the fourth on Morgan Masters’ RBI double, took the lead on an error and added four more runs to go ahead 7-2. Hailey Miller’s two-run single capped the inning.

EOU reliever Abby Giles was tagged with all six runs in the fourth on six hits to take the loss.

EOU was three outs away from getting its first win in the nightcap, but the Boxers scored three times in the seventh to steal the victory.

Montana Vaught’s RBI single and Katie Carlos’ RBI double tied the score, and Marcee Nakamura won the game two batters later with a walkoff RBI single.

EOU took a 1-0 lead in the first on Smith’s RBI single, then scored three times in the second inning to go ahead 4-1. Brittney Bertrand’s bunt single scored Payton Pocklington, and Jordan Henley followed with a two-run triple for the three-run lead.

Bertrand finished the day 3-for-3 with two runs scored and had half of EOU’s six hits. Henley finished with a pair of RBIs. Natalee Hall was charged with the loss, allowing three runs in 2-1/3 innings.

EOU (0-4 overall) heads to Redding, California, for the Simpson Triangular Feb. 15-17.

Eastern men top Walla Walla twice

Observer staff

WALLA WALLA — Max McCullough scored 27 points Saturday to lead the way as the Eastern Oregon University men’s basketball team held off Walla Walla on the road in a Cascade Collegiate Conference matchup, 86-80.

EOU led the entire second half and went up by as much as 20 on McCullough’s 4-point play with 7:37 to go, but the Wolves found a way to get back in the game, cutting the deficit to 10 with 5:22 left and getting as close as 80-77 on Zayne Browning’s layup with 36 seconds to play. Eastern, though, hit six free throws in the final 26 seconds to escape.

The Wolves scored the game’s first 11 points and held as much as an 18-5 lead

less than five minutes into the game on Browning’s jumper. EOU clawed back and eventually took the lead when Zane Wright and Brock Johnson hit back-to-back 3-pointers that put EOU ahead 26-25. The treys were part of a 10-0 run that gave the Mountaineers the lead for good, as Eastern went into the half leading 39-29.

Jarek Schetzle added 17 points and Wright had 10 for the Mountaineers, who shot 52% from the 3-point line.

EOU had no issues with the Wolves Sunday, routing Walla Walla 81-53 to complete a sweep of the weekend set.

McCullough led Eastern for the second night in a row as he finished with 24 points. Jamal Heckard scored

15 points and Brock Johnson added 11 points.

Unlike Saturday, when EOU had to bounce back from an early 13-point deficit, the Mountaineers never trailed Sunday. Walla Walla got as close as 23-22 late in the first half, but Eastern scored 14 straight points to go up 37-22 on a trey by McCullough and went into the break leading 37-25.

Eastern broke the game open with a 15-0 run early in the second half, with Justin Jeske’s 3-point play putting the Mountaineers ahead 54-28 with 13:18 to play. Walla Walla got no closer than 22 the rest of the way.

Eastern (13-12 overall, 7-9 CCC) hosts Northwest Friday.



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Eastern Oregon University’s Erin Redford, top, was one of three Mountaineers to claim all-American status at the WCWA national tourney.

EASTERN

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Velazquez by fall, Talkington ended with a 5-1 decision over Grays Harbor’s Emma Justo for seventh.

Macy Higa (123) won her first match by fall over Alexia Darst of Big Bend Community College, then dropped two in a row.

Cassidy Freeman (116) went 1-2 with a win by forfeit, and Krystal Fabricante (130) was 0-2.

As a team, EOU scored 50 points. Campbellsville won the WCWA title with 230 points.

EOU is back in action Feb. 29 for the Cascade Collegiate Conference championships in Ashland.

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